

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are currently pending, wherein claims 1 and 29 have been amended, and claims 31-37 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the remarks presented herein below.

At the outset, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Pendleton for the courtesy shown to Applicant's Representative during the interview conducted on February 21, 2007. During the Interview the independent claims and Applicants proposed new dependent claims were discussed. The Examiner indicated to Applicant's Representation that "supplying power between the master unit and the satellite unit" was allowable over the cited prior art and would be allowed subject to an updated search.

On page 2 of the Office action ("Action"), the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 11-16, 18, 23, 24, and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,639 to Goldberg et al. ("Goldberg") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,479,240 to McKinley, Jr. ("McKinley"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 29, from which claims 2, 11-16, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, and 30 variously depend, have been amended to include that the master unit supplies operating power to the satellite units. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 11-16, 18, 23, 24, and 27-30 are patentable over the combination of Goldberg and McKinley for at least the reason the combination fails to disclose supplying operating power as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11-16, 18, 23, 24, and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

On page 3 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 8-10 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of McKinley, further in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,993,073 to Sparkes ("Sparkes").

Claims 8-10 and 28 variously depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 8-10 and 28 are patentable over the combination of Goldberg and McKinley for at least those reasons presented above with respect to claim 1.

Sparkes discloses a digital signal mixing apparatus. However, Sparkes fails to overcome the deficiencies of Goldberg and McKinley. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection claims 8-10 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

On page 4 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 5, 6, 19, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of McKinley, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,773 to Eastty ("Eastty"), and claim 7 as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of McKinley further in view of Eastty and Sparkes. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 5-7, 19, and 25 variously depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 5-7, 19, and 25 are patentable over the combination of Goldberg and McKinley for at least those reasons presented above with respect to claim 1.

Eastty discloses an audio signal mixing console that utilizes an adaptive filter to correlate a first signal mixed from a stereo source and a second signal from a spot microphone source. However, Eastty and Sparkes both fail to overcome the deficiencies of Goldberg and McKinley. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request

reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection claims 5-7, 19, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

New claims 31-36 variously depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 31-36 are patentable over the cited art for at least those reasons presented above with respect to claim 1. In addition, new independent claim 37 defines a system for receiving audio signals from a plurality of microphones and transferring said audio signals via a common composite signal channel to a receiving unit. The system includes, *inter alia*, at least two satellite units, each having a separate housing, a microphone signal input, a composite signal channel input, and summing means for summing a microphone signal and a composite signal; and a master unit having a composite signal channel input, and signal converting means for converting a composite signal into a master signal, which is provided to the receiving unit via a master signal output; wherein each satellite unit is positionable away from the receiving unit and connected to said common composite signal channel, such that the microphone signal received at the respective satellite unit, is added to said composite signal, which is fed to the master unit; and wherein said master unit is arranged to supply operating power to the satellite units. Accordingly, new claim 37 is patentable over the art of record for at least the reason that the art fails to disclose each and every claimed element. (See similar discussion above with respect to claim 1.)

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny Caudle (Reg. No. 46,607) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By Penny Caudle Reg # 46,607
for Michael K. Mutter
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant